

Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2001

Sharon Furches, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., at The Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, KY.

Members Present:

Sharon Furches, Chair; Dr. Harold Benson; John Fritz; John-Mark Hack; Larry Jeffries; Scott Kuegel; David Sparrows representing Dean Scott Smith; George Martin; Glen Massengale; Billy Joe Miles; Sam Moore; Bill Payne; Harvey Mitchell representing Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Representative Roger Thomas and Martha Thompson.

Members Absent:

Terry Ashby; Morris Cave; Senator Ernie Harris; Keith Harris; Peter McNeil; Doug Lawson; Will Southerland; David Switzer; Bettie Wallace and Genie Hart.

Others Present:

Biff Baker, Brad Wellons and Sheila Hardy with Legislative Research Committee.

Staff Present:

Joel Neaveill and Angela Whitehouse.

Mr. Larry Jeffries motioned to approve the minutes of the January 23rd meeting. Dr. Harold Benson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Sharon Furches, Chair informed members of the letter that had been sent by the KARDA board to Kentucky's Congressional delegation asking their support for dairy farms in Kentucky and throughout the South by supporting the ratification of the Southern Dairy Compact.

Larry Jeffries, Chair for the Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority Legislative Committee briefed members on the legislative issues that were discussed during the committee meeting which were transportation issues regarding weight limits, exemption of all farm products from sales tax, environmental concerns, education, Tobacco Settlement Funds money and the Southern Dairy compact. Mr. Jeffries also stated that the contracting issues between farmers and businesses would offer protection to the producers not just the contractors.

Representative Roger Thomas discussed with members the legislative laws that were passed during the 2001 General Assembly. Representative Thomas also informed members he would be working on other issues for the 2002 session.

Larry Jeffries informed board that Commissioner Billy Ray Smith had recently been elected as President-Elect of the National Association of States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Jeffries recommended the Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority board write a letter of congratulations to him for this honor.

Sharon Furches, Chair requested that every member representing a commodity organization that serves on the Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority board come back with an issue of focus for the next Legislation Session in January 2002.

Martha Thompson, Chair of the marketing committee briefed members on marketing ideas discussed by the committee. Some ideas presented were using the website as a tool for collaborating with other groups and linking information, taking a survey of every listing to determine what kind of feedback is coming in and developing an agriculture television program to be aired on a public broadcasting network. Ms. Thompson requested that all groups including the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and The Agriculture Development Board provide input on marketing issues.

Sharon Furches, Chair recommended Martha Thompson and Genie Hart work with the Kentucky Center for Agriculture Development and Entrepreneurship to provide ideas for an agricultural television program that would be broadcasted on KET.

John-Mark Hack updated board on the progress of the Agriculture Development Board and the application process for grants. Mr. Hack informed the board that all applications were being reviewed thoroughly. The Agriculture Development Board was asking that county councils review county plans and provide more specifics about their plan that would affect the agricultural economy in their respective county.

John-Mark Hack informed members that the Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship would be up and running within the next thirty days. Hoppy Henton, Director of the Center was in the process of interviewing and hiring staff.

Sharon Furches, Chair recommended the next possible meeting date for the Kentucky Agriculture Development Authority would be in June. Possible location for the meeting would be at member Genie Hart's farm in Paris, KY.

With no further discussion, the board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.